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a. The Contact Division, OO, is a completely overt activity and it would be anomalous for this division to be closely associated with covert operations.

b. It would probably strengthen and expedite the support responsibilities which [REDACTED] undertakes on behalf of covert operations if OO were organizationally independent of covert operations (because it would make less frequent and more difficult the short-cutting by the covert offices through direct communication with well-developed OO contacts, etc.).

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c. The fact that the administrative functions of OO properly belong to the central administrative element of the agency, whereas a high degree of autonomous administration is essential to covert operations, militates against the present alignment of OO under DD/P.

d. The burden upon DD/P in the supervising of covert operations is already so great that he should not be required to accept responsibility for OO, but rather OO should be placed organizationally under DD/I.

e. DD/I would be in a position to defend the functions and independence of OO if at any time the demands of covert operations threatened to overwhelm it.

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5. With regard to [REDACTED] first argument, it can be contended that the activities of the Contacts Branch, [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] are all operational in nature and are thus properly brigaded with the other operating elements of the Agency. Moreover, it has been repeatedly represented to me that certain of the activities of OO are at least semi-covert in nature if not in some cases in an outright covert category. These operational activities of OO have little in common with the research and processing activities of the balance of the organization, and those which are conducted overseas definitely require the closest coordination with the responsibilities and activities of the covert operations area divisions. [REDACTED] himself recognizes this to be the case with respect to the handling of defectors and [REDACTED] both abroad and in the United States.

6. As to [REDACTED] second point, I consider this the least plausible of all. The best way to keep the covert operations people straight and to avoid interference by them with the responsibilities

and contacts

and contacts of the Contacts Branch is to have both activities under the direction of a common chief. You will recall that prior to the creation of DD/P these problems arose frequently and sometimes in rather acute form. It is worth noting that the era of improve relationship between Contacts Branch and covert operations dates approximately from the creation of the office of DD/P and the assignment to DD/P of immediate responsibility for both activities. In view of the substantially increased need for [REDACTED] by the covert offices to which the Contact Division has already made a considerable contribution, I question whether it is desirable at this time to place Contact Division and OO in a different chain of command. I fear that this might lead to independent action by the covert offices to develop operational support from domestic sources by reason of the fact that Contacts would be considered to be somewhat outside the operating family.

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7. As to [REDACTED] point concerning central administration, I agree that the major part of administrative support for OO can best be furnished by the central administrative organization. However, under the Director's recent decision a great part of the administrative support for covert operations will likewise be provided by central administration. Accordingly, this is not as valid a point as it would be if covert operations had autonomous administration.

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8. With regard to [REDACTED] point about the burden of responsibility upon DD/P, this is largely negated in my judgment on the basis of my experience to date and that of Mr. Dulles before me in dealing with you and your organization. [REDACTED] comments favorably upon the effective and smooth-running operation that you have and I can certainly add my commendations to his. The result, insofar as I am concerned, is that the problems of OO which reach me are relatively so few in number and so lacking in complexity as to require only a few hours a month of my attention.

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9. [REDACTED] position that the activities of OO require a special and separate protector in order to keep them from being over-run by covert operations, is an arguable point. I am particularly anxious to have your views on this point as I have never in my present position received a complaint from you along this line. I feel certain that you would not be slow to raise a complaint with me if you felt that any decision of mine or any action on the part of ADPC or ADPO were prejudicing the effectiveness of OO activities.

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(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

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Encl (1) - to addressee only
Subject Survey

cc: DDGI
DD/I ✓
ADPC
Insp. Gen.
ADSO

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